

# **SICC MEETING**

## **Truman Building Room 490**

### **July 12, 2002**

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Melodie Friedebach, DESE  
Rick Horrell, *DOH*  
Debbie Martin, *DSS*  
Sharon Hailey, *Provider*  
Donna Evert, *DMH*

Anne Marie Wells, *Parent*  
Jim McLaughlin, *Child Care*  
Cheryl Culbertson, *Provider*  
Sherl Taylor, *Parent*  
Virgie Scharn, *Provider*

#### **Call to Order**

Anne Marie Wells and Sharon Hailey called the meeting to order. Introductions were made around the room.

#### **Implementation Activities Update – Paula Goff**

Paula gave an implementation activities report and a handout on the modified SPOE schedule. The SPOE bid for Phase II areas should go out soon. Bidders will be encouraged to bid on multiple areas. Added incentives to help recruit SPOE bidders. There are many activities still to happen for the redesign process. Provider enrollment in Phase II areas is the next big activity. The matrix is required for providers to fill out on the web. Sessions for provider informing/recruitment are being held in a few weeks. Paula gave a handout on the dates and times of these trainings. These sessions will answer questions on contractual requirements and many other topics. The CFO will be taking over all activities for provider enrollment. Service coordination recruitment is a critical piece that is lacking for providers. Training for First Steps is on hold for the moment, but DESE is working with MOCCRRN to get these trainings back up and going again. Vicki Wilks will be setting up trainings in August with modules needed for service coordinators. Sessions for training around the state will be held during the year, but not as frequently as before. There are some changes with these trainings. A fee will be assessed, \$30 per session. This is to help cut down on no-shows and to help with budget issues. A list-serve message will go out next Monday (July 15) on this topic. A joint Phase I meeting will be scheduled to go over what is working and what is not working in Phase I areas and to help streamline the process and forms. Dates are being looked at for this meeting before Phase II begins. LICC's will be invited to participate in this meeting as well. Solutions will be asked to help setup a family participation workgroup, this includes state agencies and parents to help make a recommendation. SICC will be included in this workgroup. Southeast and Northwest areas of the state have a shortage of providers. DESE is working with the First Steps Facilitators to identify potential providers in OT, PT, Speech, and Service Coordination to recruit. Melodie Friedebach made a

comment that state schools would be a potential source to tap for these providers. Sue Allen commented that the PT professional organizations would be a good source to tap as well. Sherry Hailey said that maybe universities that offer provider classes could be contacted to recruit students as potential providers. Sherry asked if the Council could help with contacting universities in recruiting students and to help make the curriculums match the trainings needed to be a First Steps provider. Sherry suggested mailing the training schedule flyers to universities that offer First Steps provider disciplines. Leslie Elpers commented that rural areas are finding it hard to get providers into those areas. Sherry suggested contacting other state councils to see how they are handling rural area problems. Community awareness brochures, general informing brochures, and posters are being developed and printed. One of the OSEP monitoring areas is Child Find. Parent notebooks will be printed this year. Data system is being cleaned up and will get bugs worked out for Phase II. Discussion was held on feedback from providers and families.

### **Budget Update – Rick Hutcherson**

Rick handed out a sheet on budget issues. He held a discussion on the budget plan for this fiscal year. Jodi gave a cost savings update on the SICC meetings. It is much less costly to have the meetings at the state facilities instead of at a hotel with catering. The cost is almost half.

A meeting with Medicaid will be held to discuss increasing the Natural Environment rate. Leslie Elpers asked to be included in this meeting. The meeting will be held sometime in August.

Kathy Daulton held a discussion on conversion children. Filling out the conversion forms correctly the first time is important and lines left blank or filled in wrong can delay services and/or payments to the provider. They can also delay the authorizations to providers.

### **CIMP Workgroup Report – Deb Parsons**

Deb gave an overview of the CIMP process and OSEP monitoring. SICC members volunteered at the last SICC meeting to be on a workgroup assigned to various cluster areas. These members met yesterday at a meeting held at DESE. During redesign DESE has interacted with OSEP to see what areas to concentrate on. This will also determine what data is useful and what data is available to us from the redesign. Part C data will be used ongoing to do self-monitoring. DESE has looked at four cluster areas and will be used to determine what key pieces to include in the self-assessment. Looked at data to determine if it is sufficient and outcomes are acceptable. The member group did an outstanding job in their work meeting. Some issues discussed were child find and cultural minorities. Deb asked for comments from the members in the workgroup. Comment was made on finding weaknesses and strengths in the cluster areas. DESE needs to move forward with redesign. Some items to be included in the OSEP report will be charts of First Steps redesign data and SICC membership. At the September SICC meeting the results of the Part C portion of the assessment will be presented. Another CIMP workgroup meeting will be held before the next SICC meeting again before the final report is sent. This is an important piece for accountability.

## **Approval of Minutes for May Meeting**

Rick Horrell gave a clarification of the DOH update portion. DOH is no longer a SPOE in Phase I areas. DOH is now the DOHSS.

Leslie Elpers clarified that her comments are coming from a rural provider perspective rather than from her agency.

Budget report section was re-worded. There were other minor changes in wording.

Motion to accept minutes as corrected was seconded and approved.

## **SICC Members Updates**

DESE – Jodi Woesner held a discussion on service coordination recruitment. There are 13 Phase I private service coordinators: eight in St. Louis area and five in the Northwest area. These are in addition to the DMH Regional Center service coordinators. There will be trainings held in August so that providers can start services in September and reduce capacity issues. Targeted recruitment with the First Steps Facilitators will help to fill areas not covered. There will be a state-wide recruitment with the facilitators and a brochure on general information on Service Coordination. Interpreting services are needed to be recruited as well. First Steps now has several language interpreters enrolled in the St. Louis area.

Phase I has SPOE issues with meeting the 45 day limit. Discussion was held on what is preventing providers from meeting the deadline. Is it data entry? DESE will be meeting with the SPOE's to determine what works and what doesn't. There will be a meeting held internally at DESE in the Special Education sections to streamline the process.

Melodie Friedebach discussed the Part C application that has been approved by OSEP. DESE has signed an assurance statement that interagency agreements will happen. Changes will be out for public comment soon. Legislative changes now require school districts to provide services for transition children from First Steps. Melodie gave a handout on legislative change information. Schools districts have to give parents their preference of providers to transitioning children from First Steps. This is in effect on August 28, 2002. School districts will receive additional information to implement these changes. Providers need to understand Part B IEP process to provide correct services. Service Coordinators need to have this knowledge to help transition children from Part C to Part B. Module trainings will need to be modified to contain this information. School districts may elect to be enrolled as a First Steps provider. This would help in rural areas. IDEA will have increased spending for special education services and Part C.

SICC needs to discuss what needs to be done for re-authorization. A list-serve message will be sent out with the web address. This will be discussed at the next SICC meeting.

DMH – Donna Evert gave an update on the problem in St Louis with large populations of First Steps children. Case workers have large caseloads and a smaller personnel to deal with it. They

are working hard to get independent service coordinators going. They are giving families the option of transferring to a private service coordinator. Some opt not to do this because the child will still need ongoing DMH services. The service coordinators are being sent to trainings. The rest of the state is doing okay on service coordination. Jackson County is giving the Regional Center the option to contract with a private service coordinator to take on kids even though they are not in Phase I area. Regina Gunter asked which Regional Centers are able to contract private service coordinators. The answer given is that all Regional Centers have this option. The reimbursement rate is the same. Discussion was held on Regional Centers who contract outside and the qualifications of the service coordinator. Donna gave an update on the Autism Symposium and the other agencies and universities that helped with it.

Jodi Woessner made a comment on DESE working with Project Access to develop a module on autism.

DOHSS – Rick Horrell spoke on personnel changes. Paula Nicholson is now the Division Director. Glenda Miller has resigned. Rick asked what the procedure was to make him an official member of the SICC instead of an alternate. The budget situation is the same. BSHCN continues to reduce staff. DOHSS is working with DESE to continue services for children in the system. July 1 Greene County Health Department ended the contract so DOHSS is absorbing those children from Greene County. There is a contract with the Kansas City Health Dept to take on First Steps children. DOHSS is keeping people informed as best as we can do.

DSS – Debbie Martin discussed CFO issues with electronic billing. Discussions are being held with DESE. DESE has completed the paperwork to be payee for OT, PT, Speech, and Service coordination. May 2000 reported 75,348 children enrolled in MC+. CFO has to be HIPAA compliant. DMS is working with the UMKC to offer grants, 10-20K, to offer Medicaid services.

DFS – Jim McLaughlin reported personnel issues and budget issues.

PAT – Ann Haffner spoke on quality control management at PAT and that training is ongoing to parent trainers. There is scholarship money from DESE to attend trainings and to hold trainings. Calendar on PAT website for trainings will indicate closed or open. [www.patnc.org](http://www.patnc.org)

Providers – Val Lane commented that it is difficult for EHS to meet the ten percent requirement to serve First Steps children. Collaboration between First Steps and Early Head Start helps. If they are eligible for First Steps then they are automatically eligible for Early Head Start. The Bush Administration has a push for Father involvement.

Stacey Ismail commented that a memorandum of understanding for early Head Start will be an interagency agreement.

Comment from the audience on credentialing is minimal so that family members can qualify.

Families – comment that there is a lack of providers in the Northwest.

### **Nominations – Anne Marie Wells and Sharon Hailey**

Anne Marie has been emailing with Emmy McClelland and all the nominations are ready to be finalized. Jodi is still waiting for the letters authorizing memberships.

### **By-Laws – Anne Marie Wells and Sharon Hailey**

There were major corrections done to the By-Laws and they are ready to be copied and will be presented at the September SICC meeting.

### **SICC Budget Report**

See handout from Jodi Woessner. This meeting starts the new fiscal year.

### **New Business**

The next meeting is September 13, 2002, at the Truman Building, room 493/494, Jefferson City.

The Health Advisory Group is still on hold.

**Meeting adjourned.**